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ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION
AUGUST 23 & 31, 1967

MIGUEL TORRES

ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

AUGUST 23, 1967

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

PRESENT: MESSRS. JAMES ALCOCK, RICHARD BURNES and
NUMA BERTEL, Jr., Assistant District Attorneys

MEMBERS OF THE ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

MIGUEL TORRES

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Reported by:
Maureen B. Thiel,
Secretary
Orleans Parish Grand Jury

(First appearance of Miguel Torres before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury - August 23, 1967)

MIGUEL TORRES, witness herein, after being duly sworn by the Foreman of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, was questioned and answered as follows:

Q. MR. BURNES:

I am going to explain to you certain rights that you have as a witness. First of all, any questions that you are asked by myself or Mr. Garrison, the District Attorney, Mr. Jim Alcock, Mr. Numa Bertel, the Assistant District Attorneys, or any of the Grand Jurors, any of these questions which tend to incriminate you, you have a right not to answer under the 5th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution, and under the Louisiana Constitution. Now that means that if the answers would show that you are guilty or tend to show that you are guilty of a particular crime, you do not have to answer, do you understand?

A. Yes.

Q. I want to caution you also that the oath that you have just taken has two points: one is that you must tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; the second point is that you will keep secret the proceedings in this room. With regard to the secret part,

the law is clear that you cannot go out of this court room and tell anyone what happened unless you are permitted to do so by the court. You cannot say what was asked of you or what you were told. If you are charged as a suspect you would have a right to tell your attorney only if you are charged or a suspect in this proceeding. So if you tell any other person the proceedings of this Jury you will be charged with contempt which is the same as contempt in court. The first part of that oath is that you will tell the truth, now this Grand Jury is authorized to take testimony under oath, if you testify falsely on any on any point that is material it would constitute perjury. Do you understand that?

A. Yes.

Q. Now it would constitute perjury if you say 'I don't know' and you do know. It would constitute perjury if you stated something as a fact and you do not know it to be a fact. In other words, if I were to ask you what color is my car and you were to say white, if you do not know it is white, even though it is white, that would be false.

Now, the final thing is that you must answer questions if you do not have the privilege. If one of the jurors or the

District Attorney asks you a question and you refuse to answer, you would then be brought into Court and the Judge would decide if you have to answer it. If you fail to answer a question that you should answer, it would constitute perjury. Is there anything that you don't understand?

A. No, I believe I understand.

Q. Now you have had an opportunity to talk to your attorney?

A. Yes.

MR. GARRISON:

Q. Miguel, do you know Emilio Santana?

A. I would like permission to consult my lawyer?

MR. ALCOCK:

Do you feel that question by itself, without any background to the question, would in any way incriminate you - whether or not you know Emilio Santana?

A. I would like to have permission to consult my attorney.

MR. BURNES:

Did your attorney ask you to consult with him on each question?

A. I would like to have permission to consult my attorney.

Q. Is there any question that you will answer without going out and consulting with your attorney?

A. I would like to have permission to consult my attorney.

MR. ALCOCK:

Now you can go out and consult your attorney but you cannot relate to him that question. You can only consult him on a legal issue only. Do you understand that?

FOREMAN:

You can't tell him what we have asked you.

MR. ALCOCK:

You can't tell him that we asked you if you knew Emilio Santana.

JUROR:

We have only asked you one question and you can't ask him about what we asked you, so you can't go out there.

MR. BURNES:

Do you feel that you need to consult with your attorney one time and then you can come back in here and answer questions?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

FOREMAN:

I will give you one chance.

MR. GARRISON:

Who is your attorney?

A. Mr. Burton Klein.

MR. BURNES:

He asked you to say that you wanted to talk to him?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

JUROR:

Didn't you consult with your attorney before you came in here?

A. Yes.

Q. What do you want to talk with him now for?

A. I would like to consult with my attorney?

Q. What about?

A. I would like permission to consult my attorney.

JUROR:

I say no, don't let him go out.

FOREMAN:

Now, let's get one thing clear. I am Foreman of the Grand Jury. We will let you go out and ask one thing. We are going to give you your right to consult with your attorney. However, if we ask you a question and it is not going to incriminate you, we will make you answer it. We are not going to take advantage of you, we will give you an opportunity to consult your attorney if we think the answer will damage you. If we don't think it

will damage you, you will have to answer and we will not give you the opportunity to go out and consult with your attorney. You can't ask him what we ask you. Now, you have to ^{answer} ask the questions and if you don't answer we are going to charge you.

(Exit Mr. Torres)

(Reenter Mr. Torres)

FOREMAN:

Mr. Torres, you are still under oath.

A. Yes sir.

MR. GARRISON:

Do you know Emilio Santana?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether or not Emilio Santana was in Dallas, Texas, in the fall of 1963?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

FOREMAN:

You can't. If an answer will incriminate you I will tell you, but as long as an answer will not incriminate you I will not allow you to go out and ask your attorney. This is not ^{how} this procedure is run. You are not allowed to do that.

Now if you do not want to answer the question
sit down on your Constitutional rights and we will
take you down before the Judge.

A. I want to consult with my attorney.

Q. The answer is no, you cannot.

MR. BURNES:

Is that your handwriting, did you write that?

Can you type? Did you type that?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

JUROR:

Would you say that answering that question would
incriminate you, is that it?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

MR. ALCOCK:

The only time you can refuse to answer a question
is when it would incriminate you or tends to incriminate
you. You can't refuse to answer a question with an
answer of 'I would like to see my attorney'. Do you
understand that?

A. I would like permission to see my attorney.

MR. GARRISON:

Let me ask you another question, Miguel. Were you in
Dallas, Texas in the fall of 1963 with Emilio Santana?

A. I would like to see my attorney.

Q. We would like to have an answer to that one.

Q. How old are you, Miguel?

A. I would like to consult with my attorney.

Q. Where do you presently live?

A. Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Q. How long have you been there?

A. About 3 years.

Q. What are you up there for?

A. Burglary.

Q. Where did you live prior to going to the Penitentiary?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

MR. GARRISON:

Have you ever been at the Beckley Club on Jefferson St.
in Dallas, Texas?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

Q. Do you know whether or not Santana knew Jack Ruby in
Dallas, Texas?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

Q. MR. ALCOCK:

Do you have any brothers, Miguel?

A. I would like to consult with my attorney.

Q. I would like to ask you a few questions, Miguel,' obviously they will not incriminate you. We are not after you, we are not after your family. You are not the suspect, we are just trying to get some information. You lived at one time in the 1500 block of Magazine, or your mother did, is that correct?

A. I would like to consult with my attorney.

Q. Do you feel that that question would incriminate you , to say where you lived? Answer that question.

A. I would like to consult with my attorney.

MR. BURNES:

I don't know if you understood my instructions to you originally. They were about four-fold: 1, you don't have to answer anything that tends to incriminate you. I can't make you or the gentlemen of the Jury can't make you answer anything that incriminates you. But you may not refuse to answer a question unless it tends to incriminate you. Now whether it tends to incriminate you or not, unless you say 'I refuse to answer that question on the grounds that it tends to incriminate me' the law is that you must answer it. Now if you say 'I would like to consult with my attorney', if you are saying that incriminates me, that is one thing, but you may not refuse to answer a question because if you do refuse

to answer questions before this Grand Jury right here and it is not on the grounds that it might incriminate you, or if you have failed to say it is on the 5th Amendment, then the Court orders you to answer that question - I am telling you now ^{if} so/you fail to answer and the Court orders you to answer, that would constitute contempt of court and the punishment is up to 6 months in Parish Prison and/or \$500.00 fine and in default of the \$500.00 fine another year in Parish Prison. Now, it is compulsory that you have to answer questions that do not incriminate you. You cannot sit in here and say "I would like to talk to my attorney", or 'I would like to talk to anyone'. You must answer these men or refuse to answer on the grounds that it would tend to incriminate you. If you refuse the Judge will rule whether you have to answer that question. Now, do you understand that?

FOREMAN:

These are secret proceedings. You have no right to an attorney in here. This is a private proceeding.

MR. ALCOCK:

When were you born?

A. September 29, 1937

Q. MR. GARRISON:

Miguel, do you know the names of some of the individuals involved in the assassination of President Kennedy?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

Q. Did you ever have occasion to meet with Emilio Santana and Sergio Arcacha Smith in the 1300 block of Dauphine Street in the summer of 1963?

A. Since I do not have permission to consult with my attorney I refuse to answer on the grounds that it might tend to incriminate me.

Q. Miguel, did you know Lee Harvey Oswald?

A. I wish permission to consult my attorney.

Q. Did you and Emilio Santana go to Dallas in the fall of 1953?

A. I wish permission to consult my attorney.

Q. Do you know of the relationship of Emilio Santana and Jack Ruby?

A. I wish permission to consult my attorney.

(Jury and witness and Advisers go into Court - Section "H")

(Return from Court)

MR. ALCOCK:

Have you had an opportunity to consult with your attorney?

A. Yes.

Q. You were in Court and heard everything that was said?

A. Yes.

Q. You understand what the Judge instructed you to do?

A. Yes.

MR. GARRISON:

We have a statement which we obtained from Emilio Santana, do you know him?

A. Yes.

Q. In his statement he described a meeting with you in New Orleans in the summer of 1963, and he describes Sergio Arcacha Smith as being present. You want to tell us about that meeting?

A. I would like to consult with my attorney.

Q. Did you attend the meeting with Sergio Arcacha Smith and Emilio Santana in the 1300 block of Dauphine St. in the summer of 1963?

A. I did visit a house in the 1300 block of Dauphine, it was on the lefthand side going uptown and Emilo Santano was there and Sergio Arcacha Smith was not there.

Q. Do you recall telling Lynn Loisel when you were first brought down here from Angola That Sergio Arcacha was present at the meeting?

A. No.

Q. You don't recall that?

A. I want to consult my attorney.

Q. You just consulted your attorney, didn't you?

MR. BURNES:

Do you intend to say that on every question that we ask you? Unless the Judge orders you to answer?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever live on Magazine St?

A. It was my mother's address and sometimes I gave it when I got arrested.

Q. Why did you tell us while ago you had to consult with your attorney before answering that question? I just want you to tell me why. If you can give me a reason, tell me why you said that when we asked you about ten minutes ago?

Tell me the reason, tell me in your own words why you would not answer the question without consulting your attorney? Did your attorney tell you not to answer questions and say that each time?

A. May I speak to my attorney please?

Q. Let me see that piece of paper? That you brought in here. I want you to listen carefully to what I am saying to you because on nearly every question you have stated that you wanted to talk to your attorney. I am asking you about this piece of paper. Do you see this piece of paper? Did your attorney tell you to give this answer on all of the questions, or just some of the questions?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

Q. You won't tell us whether your attorney told you to say this on every question or not?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

Q. It looks like what the attorney is trying to do is get a review of each question, he has to approve of the question before he answers. I would like to ask this question: Miguel Torres, do you mind if I mark this piece of paper for identification?

A. I would like to consult my attorney.

Q. All right, since you don't object I am marking this piece of paper with 'MT', meaning that I received it from Miguel Torres. Did I take this piece of paper from you?

A. Yes.

Q. All right, Miguel Torres, inasmuch as on nearly every question you have stated that you want to talk to your attorney I am now asking you: did your attorney type these instructions and tell you not to answer questions but ask to see your attorney on each question? Answer that question.

A. Will you rephrase the question please?

Q. I will restate it. Miguel Torres, I have taken from you a piece of paper which I have marked 'MT' on the corner of this piece of paper. Because on nearly every question you have asked to speak to your attorney instead of answering, I am asking you whether your attorney gave you this piece of paper and instructed you to answer every question by saying you wish to speak to your attorney rather than answering the question. Answer the question.

A. May I consult with my attorney?

MR. BURNES:

Mr. Foreman, I think we should return to Court.

(Exit)

(Return)

MR. BURNES:

Miguel Torres, I have taken a piece of paper which I have marked 'MT' in the corner of the paper, because on every question we have asked you you have asked to speak to your attorney, now I am asking you did your attorney give you this piece of paper and instruct you to answer every question by saying you wish to speak to your attorney rather than answer the question. Did he give you this piece of paper?

A. Yes.

Q. Why did you feel it was necessary to consult with your attorney when I asked you this? Why, you have to have a reason, don't you? What is the reason?

A. Maybe I didn't understand your question.

Q. When I asked if you lived on Magazine Street you said you wanted to talk to your attorney, did you understand the question?

A. Yes sir. I did not live on Magazine Street, my mother lived on Magazine St.

Q. Well, why did you feel that you had to talk to your attorney?

A. I was not sure.

Q. Not sure about what? Whether you lived there or your mother lived there?

A. I do not live there. I give the address sometimes.

Q. What is it you were not sure about?

A. I felt it was for me to consult my attorney.

Q. Now, we have passed that point. You said you weren't sure, what is it you were not sure about the question when I asked if you lived on Magazine Street?

A. The question

Q. Why were you not sure when it is so simple that your mother lived there and you don't. You think your attorney knew the answer?

Miguel, the Judge has ruled that you have to answer this question. Now isn't it a fact that your attorney told you to ask to see him on each question so he could tell you if you could answer it or not?

A. He said if I felt it was necessary.

Q. No, it wasn't when you felt it was necessary, he said any time they asked you to say something besides your

name and age, isn't that right? Didn't he tell

A. you which question to go ask him about? Didn;t
you and him have a long discussion about what
questions to go talk to him about? Huh?

A. He said the questions I fail it is necessary to speak
to him.

Q. Didn't he tell you what kind of questions they would be?

A. I would answer any questions.

Q. That is not what I asked you?

A. I asked you didn't he tell you what kind of questions
to talk to him about? Now, he either told you or he
didn't.

MR. ALCOCK:

Miguel, you did testify that you attended a meeting in
1963 with Emilio on Dauphine, is that right?

A. I do not know whether it was 1963 or 1964.

Q. How did you get there?

A. We drove.

Q. Who drove?

A. In my car.

Q. What kind of car did you have?

A. Buick, '51 Buick.

Q. What color?

A. Black

Q. Who went with you? Besides Emilio?

A. Myself and Emilio.

Q. Did he tell you the purpose of going?

A. The time when I made the statement - there was a man living in the house with another woman, Mexican woman, his name was Sergio, I remember that much. I notice he had kind of greenish looking eyes, about 5'11", athletic looking type, he had high cheek bones, typical Spanish mixed with Indian. He was with Mexican woman, her name was Maria. There was another couple lived in the house at the time that I - at the time I say this I was so nervous I did not remember during the course his name was Roberto

JUROR:

Which house on Dauphine St.?

A. Yes, on lefthand side going toward Canal St.

Q. Riverside of Dauphine?

A. Yes. Its French looking house, old looking, has green doors - and they look so much alike -

Q. This had a green door to the house?

A. Yes. I notice a bunch of them had green doors.

Q. What was the reason for the meeting?

A. We went there to eat the Spanish rice.

Q. Any other particular reason for going there?

A. No.

Q. You didn't talk about the Cuban situation - you are from Cuba, aren't you?

A. No - yes I am from Cuba.

Q. When did you come to the U. S.?

A. Dec. 25, 1951 or 1952, a long time ago.

Q. When did you first meet Emilio Santana?

A. It was latter part of 1963 or beginning of 1964. I am confused about the date I was using narcotics then ..

Q. How did you happen to meet Emilio?

A. Its such a long time ago. I think it was in a place on Decatur St. I think the Copa Cabana Bar, a bar frequented by Spanish people and I would go there once in a while.

Q. Did he tell you why he was he was in town?

A. No.

Q. Did you become close friends after that?

A. Well, I would say associates, not friends. Not close associates, more or less acquaintances.

Q. Going back to the meeting on Dauphine St., was there any discussion about Cuba at all?

A. No.

Q. Was there ~~any~~ any discussion about President Kennedy at all?

A. No.

Q. Did you know Roberto prior to going there?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did you know him from?

A. See him around on Decatur Street.

Q. Did you know Maria, his wife?

A. Maria was not his wife. Dolores was his wife.

Q. Did Santana have a car? When he was here?

A. Yes, he had a '58 Buick.

Q. What color was it?

A. I know he had a red one, but I can't recall the other color. It was a '58 Buick, I think black on top.

Q. It wasn't one solid color?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever attend any other meeting at that location?

A. No. The only time I went, I guess food was so bad I did not go back.

Q. Did you ever meet Clay Shaw?

A. No, never.

Q. Did you ever meet a boy by the name of Alvin Bobeauf?

A. I have seen him on television.

Q. Would you recognize him if you saw him?

A. Well, I seen him once.

Q. Would you recognize him?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever see him in the company of, or anybody
him
who looks like/in the company of Emilio?

A. No.

Q. You know any of Emilio's friends at that time?

A. A couple of boys he came here with from Miami. They stayed on Magazine St. It was the 2700 block or some such, I know it was around - before you get to Louisiana it was between Washington St. and Louisiana - no, just a minute, just Washington and Louisiana, one of the apartments or rooming houses they have cheap.

Q. Were there quite a few Cubans in that location?

A. 3 or 4 of them.

Q. Did Emilio ever tell you he was working for the CIA?

A. He did mention that.

Q. What did he say?

A. Like conversation, like he used to make trips to Miami - infiltrate Cuba - he said he was a frog man. He carried money sometimes.

Q. Did you believe him?

A. No sir.

Q. Did he ever try to interest you in working for the CIA?

A. Sometimes he say you have to join. I say what, I have

pretty bad habit, I am sick most of the time. I can't.

Q. These two boys you said were living with Emilio, you remember their names?

A. No, nothing ever happened to impress the names on my memory. I know there was one quite blond hair, unusual for a Cuban, and looked like a German lad. He rode a '53 or '54 Oldsmobile.

Q. What color was the automobile?

A. It was a little darker than this and I think it was black and tan, 4-door.

Q. Was his hair long?

A. No, he had a receding forehead and it was natural.

Q. Can you describe the other boy who lived with him?

A. I notice there was a skinny one in there with him, the reason I notice him he was typical Cuban-Indian Mixture with Spanish, about 80% more Indian, very dark - funny looking Indian color, that is how I remember him.

Q. About how tall was he?

A. I would say maybe my height.

Q. How tall are you?

A. About 5-1/2 or 6'.

Q. About 5'7" maybe?

A. Yes, possibly.

Q. How tall is the blond boy?

A. About 5-10 or 9. Looked like football type.

Q. Did you ever go anywhere with Emilio and the two boys?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever associate with them much at all?

A. No.

Q. Did Emilio have his family down here at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Were- or was he living with his family on Magazine St.?

A. Yes, he was staying on Magazine St. and he mentioned the name Florida Ave. Project, but I never did ask for the address.

Q. Have you ever heard of a man by the name of Rich Lochley?

A. No.

Q. How about Teclo Pedras, or Pedros?

A. Pedro Cellos?

Q. No, the last name is Pedros.

A. No, I think I remember if I heard the name.

Q. Do you know if Emilio ever went to Dallas?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever been to Dallas in your life?

A. Yes, I have a brother in the Federal Penitentiary in Dallas at one time on Honor Farm and I made a trip

to see him to Dallas.

Q. When did you go?

A. It was '62 or possibly the end of '61.

Q. Were you there in 1963?

A. No sir.

Q. And you don't know whether or not Emilio was there in 1963?

A. No sir.

Q. You say your brother was in Dallas, which brother was that?

A. The oldest brother, Joseph.

Q. When did he get out?

A. He has been out and he went to Beauty College and opened a salon, he and his wife.

Q. You know Nina Salzer, who works here in the Parish?

A. Yes.

Q. When you were in Dallas did you go to the Beckley Club?

A. No, It was such a long trip, we went straight there and come right back - we stay at something like the Patio Hotel, a drive-in.

Q. You did not go out around, you stayed in motels and then went on?

A. Yes.

Q. Who was with you?

Q. My mother was with me, I remember

Q. Whose car did you go in?

A. My brother's car, Luke's car.

Q. Do you know who owns the gas station at Washington and Magazine? The Cuban boys?

A. I know a Cuban family, they own a couple of gas stations, I believe one is at Washington where I used to get my car fixed. Another one at La. & Magazine and I believe

Q. it is owned by the same brothers. But I can't remember the name, but I know they are brothers.

Q. Did you ever have occasion at any time when you were in that station to see Emilio there?

A. Yes sir, I believe it is so hard to recall the incident. A few times I think. You see he used to live in that house, it was 2 or 3 blocks from the gas station and he used to frequent this house and these people.

Q. What, the house? What house are you talking about?

A. In the 2700 block of Magazine.

Q. Was that a Cuban family there or something? Or just

A. these two guys?

A. It was a rooming house or something and they had these

3 or 4 or 5 Cuban refugees there and Spanish people of all nationalities and I believe once or twice I pull up in the gas station at the time I was standing on Harmony St. and I pull up in the station and I see him fixing his Buick. At the time he had trouble with his car.

Q. You remember one time you were there talking to Emilio around his Buick and some man approached you about the possibility of joining some anti-Castro organization?

A. No, I never been approached by anyone except when Emilio suggested that I join.

Q. Did you ever participate in any organization?

A. No sir, I didn't.

Q. You have no political inclinations one way or another?

A. No sir. I grew up in this country and I love the United States. I have democratic way of life. I disagree with what is going on in Cuba at the moment I can't do anything about it, I don't have the intellectual ability to do anything about it.

Q. Have you ever known a man by the name of Warren Reynolds?

A. No.

Q. How about Jack Ruby?

A. No, I saw him on TV.

Q. Jack Lawrence?

A. No sir.

Q. Kenneth Leckey?

A. No sir.

Q. Hank Killigan?

A. No.

Q. How about Dago Garner?

A. No.

Q. Guy Johnson?

A. No.

Q. How about Loran Hall?

A. No.

Q. A big man with a beard?

A. No.

Q. I want you to look at these pictures and tell us if you recognize any of them?

A. This is the man you showed me previously.

Q. That is not the man Sergio referred you to?

A. No, lot of difference.

Q. You are positive of that?

A. Very positive.

Now this man here was a shoeshine boy in this barber place in the 600 block of Carondelet St. the reason I remember him he used to play thebongo drums and I

like to hear them and I used to go get my hair cut, the name of the place is George's Barber Shop.

Q. Is it a Cuban place? Who is the owner of the place?

A. George.

Q. Is he Cuban?

A. He probably is.

Q. That is Selzo Hernandez.

A. I knew that he worked there.

Q. You never saw Jack Ruby in your life?

A. No, not until what happened.

I recognize this man, Bobeauf, for the first time.

Q. Did you ever know Bobeauf before all this?

A. No.

Q. You never saw him as far as you can remember?

A. No sir.

Q. Did you ever see Lee Oswald when he was here in the City?

A. No.

Q. You know he used to live in the 4900 block of Magazine?

A. Well, you see my mother lived in the 1500 block of Magazine in 1964, a year later after all this happened.

Q. You have never seen Mr. Shaw?

A. Not until after this happened.

Q. He wasn't at that meeting on Dauphine Street?

A. No sir. I would remember that.

This man's face sounds a little familiar, but I can't place him.

Q. You recognize that man?

A. No, but I recognize the features, Spanish... Maybe not.

Q. You recognize this man at all?

A. This man might be familiar, but I might have seen him and that is why he might look familiar.

Q. Where do you think you might have seen him?

A. I couldn't say, a vague idea that I might have seen him somewhere.

Q. The only people you feel you might have seen you can't recall? This man here maybe and this man here, is that right?

A. Yes, it is possible. The face brings something like that but I can't recall it, it has been such a long time ago. It is so hard to remember.

Q. Where were you in November of 1963?

A. My mother had a restaurant on Arabella Street. I used to help her, I was serving draft beer and my sister would come out, and I went back

Q. you were in your mother's restaurant on Arabella St?
Have you ever heard of Loren Hall?

A. No, I believe you mentioned that before.

Q. Laurence Howard?

A. No.

Q. William Seymour?

A. No.

Q. Henry Patrick?

A. No.

Q. Gary Patrick?

A. No.

Q. How about David Ferrie?

A. I have heard the name.

Q. You never met him?

A. Not personally, no.

Q. Carlos Quiroga?

A. No, I seen pictures of him.

Q. Bruce Ray Carla?

A. No.

Q. Officer Tippit?

A. No, I read about him, but I never did see a picture of him.

Q. Harry Olsen?

A. No.

Q. You ever heard anything about the Minute Man Organization?

A. I believe I read something about that when I was in the Penitentiary, some kind of organization - I know they got arrested for having dynamite with them - something like that in Time Magazine.

Q. Have you ever met anyone who was a Minute Man?

A. No.

Q. How about Adrian Alba, you ever heard of him?

A. No. I might have heard the name.

Q. How about Gordon Novel?

A. No, I heard the name.

Q. I am going to describe a Cuban, or Latin-American to you, and I am going to ask if he fills the description of anybody you know? A man about 5'8" or 5'10", dark, heavyset, athletically built with a big, strong neck, strong shoulders and a scar over his left eye - do you ever recall meeting anybody like that?

A. I never ... I am sorry ... I would remember him ...

Q. Have you ever met a man by the name of John Howard Bowen?

A. No.

Q. Albert Osborne?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever hear in the summer of '63 anything about these Cuban training camps across the Lake?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever hear Emilio mention anybody in the CIA across the Lake while he was in the City?

A. No.

Q. Did Emilio ever mention any CIA contacts he had here in the City?

A. No. All he talked about - he was very talkative man and he liked to impress people but he was chronological liar.

Q. How about Layton Martens? Did you ever meet him?

A. I heard the name and I saw him on TV.

Q. James Llewellyn?

A. I heard the name on TV, I never met him.

Q. Did you know of any plot to kill the President?

A. No.

Q. From conversations with you, have we ever asked you to tell us anything but the truth?

A. No.

Q. Would you take a look at these pictures and see if it refreshes your memory about the Dauphine Street address?

A. Now this is one of the houses - they look so much alike.

Mr. Burnes:

They are all the houses along the block, the 1300 block of Dauphine St. Now, if the house is in that block it is one of those houses.

A. I am looking at the ones I can remember, because I would

park on the curb like this man is parked,

It is either one of these houses right here. I can't recall, but one of these houses right here.

Q. Do you recall the fire plug?

A. I know that I came and parked near the corner, we walked back up one of these steps here.

Q. You feel fairly certain about that?

A. Yes, I am positive.

Q. It is 1320 or 1318?

A. This one is upstairs, it is either this house or this house, one of these two.

Q. If this one is 1320 this must be 1318. You feel fairly sure it was this one? Did you go through a gate?

A. No, it was upstairs. It is one of these 3 houses here. I am more inclined to believe it would be one of these two. I don't remember, they look so much alike and I did not pay too much mind to detail.

Q. Was it night?

A. No, evening.

JUROR:

Was the man who lived here drunk all the time?

A. This other couple they were staying there.

Q. He walks with a sort of limp?

A. No sir, he

- Q. I am talking about the man with the high cheek bones who looked like an Indian.
- A. No, I did not notice him walking with a limp.
- Q. Cross shoulders?
- A. No, slim, not big, but nice, he wore a bandlon shirt regular khaki pants, the reason I remember him I had just met him and he had green eyes, pretty green eyes, pretty color. That is how I remember his face.

MR. ALCOCK:

Did you see him any time after that?

- A. No, it is possible I might have seen him, but I don't remember.
- Q. Were they Emilio's friends?
- A. Yes, Emilio seemed to know him pretty good.
- Q. How did you happen to go there? With Emilio?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You did not know them prior to going there, did you?
and Dolores
- A. I knew Roberto and I see Maria a few times before.
- Q. Did you know where they worked, Roberto or?
- A. Roberto cut hair of friends, sometimes people maybe give him dollar or two.
- Q. Did I ever talk to you in the D.A.'s office?
- A. I don't remember.
- Q. You must have talked to Mr. Garrison and Loisel?

A. Yes, I talked to him, he is the one. What is your name?

Q. My name is Alcock. See how simple this is, when you answer questions.

A. Yes.

Q. This Grand Jury is only asking for the truth, as is the District Attorney's office. We are not here to hurt you. You never heard any conversation about any Cuban camp across the Lake, did you?

A. No, it was mentioned to me before.

Q. Do you hang around with a Cuban crowd much?

A. No, because I had a bad habit. I did not have time for social activity.

Q. What relationship to you is Angelo Sylva?

A. My cousin.

JUROR:

How long have you had the habit?

A. Since 1962 - 1964, I try to get narcotics/^{help}in New Orleans I went to Mandeville and then I went to Charity - he could do nothing for me - so I made an application for Lexington so many months, by then, but it is over with.

MR. ALCOCK:

You can't remember when you first met Emilio?

A. Late 1963 or 1964, somewhere around there.

Q. The charges you are presently doing time on were burglary and in which he was with you, right?

When was that?

A. 1964, I remember that.

Q. Emilio did not speak English at all at that time?

A. Very little.

JUROR:

Are you a citizen?

A. No, but I believe there is a certain law that when some one comes here from a foreign country and you are under age and your father is a naturalized citizen you might come under that category.

MR. ALCOCK:

Q. Your father is a naturalized citizen?

A. Yes.

Q. What will you do when you get out?

A. My brother will teach me in Beauty College. I learn from him.

Q. BY A JUROR:

What did you do before you got involved with this dope?

A. I got the second habit in 1962, the first habit in 1958. See I had a sister, she had a fatal disease and she had it for about 3 years, we knew it from the start, she was going to die. The last 8 months of her life I spent with her in hospital day and night and maybe I just just used

to take pills to go to sleep, that is how I started. I became an addict, I went to the Penitentiary in 1958.

Q. Did you take heroin?

A. Yes. Then I shipped out a couple of times, I worked with my brothers.

Q. What did you steal?

A. Everything.

Q. You stole to buy dope?

A. Yes sir.

MR. ALCOCK:

Miguel, the Grand Jury has never asked you to lie and I have never asked you to lie, have I? Did anybody in our office ever ask you to lie?

A. Sorry sir.

Q. All right, your privilege. That is OK. Nita Salzer, did you ever talk to her about the assassination?

A. No sir. I was working in the _____ Department.

Q. She never talked to you about the assassination?

A. No.

Q. Did she ever tell you she was a good friend of Clay Shaw?

A. I never did talk to many people about Clay Shaw.

Q. Did you ever talk to Bundy about it?

A. No.

Q. Do you know him?

A. Yes.

Q. You know him on the street?

A. I seen him a couple of times.

JUROR:

/ In your association with the District Attorney's office
did you have several conversations with people there?

A. I cannot answer that question.

MR. ALCOCK:

I think he said he talked to Mr. Garrison and Lynn
Loisel.

Q. Do you know anything about the assassination at all?

A. No.

Q. And the only time you have been to Dallas is the one
time you passed through going to see your brother?

A. Yes.

Q. You spent the whole night in Dallas.

A. Yes.

Q. Then the next morning you immediately left?

A. Yes.

Q. You are under oath and you realize that you can be
charged with perjury unless you tell the truth -

and you were at no other time in Dallas, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you come from Cuba to New Orleans?

A. Yes.

Q. And you have lived here ever since?

A. Yes, except when working on the coast and shipping out.

JUROR:

Q. where is the place where your brother was incarcerated?

A. About 15 miles out of Dallas, right between Fort Worth and Dallas.

Q. And on your way back did you pass through Dallas coming back?

A. Yes.

Q. You did not stop in Dallas coming back?

A. Yes, we had to come to Dallas coming back this way.

Q. You had to stop in Dallas.

A. Yes, we spent the night in Dallas coming back.

The trip was so long we decided to rest before driving on.

Q. When you cane back through Dallas where did you stay?

A. I can't remember the name of the hotel, motel.

Q. You checked into the motel?

A. Yes, and left in the morning.

Q. Did you eat supper that night in the motel? Or go out?

A. We went out a little place must ~~have~~ have been about 10:00

or 11:00 o'clock and we see a sign say 'Restaurant'
and we ordered some steaks, nobody ate nothing,
bad food.

Q. You did not go out to a night club or bar?

A. No, tired travelling, long trip.

Q. Did Mr. Sheridan try to contact you, without going into
what you said or what he said?

A. I would like to consult with my attorney.

MR. ALCOCK:

Q. Are you on active probation, do you have to report to
a parole officer?

A. I report every 3 weeks.

Q. When do you come up for parole?

A. (Inaudible)

Q. Is your brother in jail? In Texas?

A. No, I had a brother in jail in Texas.

Q. Without going into any relationship with our office,
outside of our office, has anybody given you any money
to say anything? Not in our office, I am not trying to
trick you.

A. No.

Q. When did you say you met Emilio Santana?

MR. BURNES:

A. I think it was at the Copa Cabana on Decatur Street early in 1964.

Q. Do you know a Maria Santana?

A. I know a Mexican girl named Maria, but I don't know her last name.

Q. There was a girl named Maria Santana who was arrested with Angelo Sylvio in 1964?

A. What month?

A. (Inaudible) ..., in which they were witnesses in connection with a burglary and about two months later do you know that Maria Santana?

A. Possibly it was the Mexican girl at the house that night.

Q. Was she any relation to Emilio Santana?

A. No sir, because this girl is Mexican.

Q. Emilio is pretty dark.

A. Yes, but it is different color from the Indian. Emilio is more Spanish blood.

JUROR:

Did you ever have occasion to visit the Trade Mart?

A. No, I never had any business over there.

Q. Do you know Carlos Quiroga?

A. No, the name was mentioned to me before.

Q. Did you go to school in New Orleans?

A. Yes, I went to McDonogh 15, I went there when I first come here, I went for about 8 months, and I took a test and they put me in Jr. High School. I went to Peters Jr. High School for about a year and half, then I joined the National Guard, I stayed in the National Guard for about 4 years, I did electric motor works, the name of it was Standard Motor Electric and it was located on Frenchman and Dauphine, later on, about 30 months later, business had grown so we moved to 200 block of Claiborne, I work there for about 2 years maybe. I learned pretty good over there.

MR. ALCOCK:

Q. What are you doing in the Penitentiary?

A. I work in the warehouse, typist.

JUROR:

Why is it so important that you won't discuss the National Broadcast?

A. I would like to see my attorney.

Q. Afraid of being indicted or something?

A. I would like to see my attorney.

Q. Do you know Louis Rabel?

A. No.

Q. You know Layton Martens?

A. No, I heard of him.

Q. Do you know Guy Banister?

A. No sir, the name was mentioned to me before, but I never met him.

Q. Do you know Josephine Roberts, a girl?

A. No.

Q. Do you know Delphine Roberts?

A. No.

Q. Carlos Bringuiere?

A. No, I seen a picture of him.

Q. How about Jack Martin?

A. No.

Q. Who did you more or less, say in 1963, hang around with? You didn't hang around with Cubans, you say?

A. No sir, I didn't associate with many people. I go home and stay with my wife.

Q. Are you still married?

A. She died in 1965, about a year after I was incarcerated.

Q. You have now been talking to us and answering questions for about an hour and 20 minutes, what is so different from our ~~me~~ attitude now?

A. You are very kind.

Q. You don't think we were kind when you first came in?

A. You have not changed.

Q. Then why did you refuse to answer the questions at first? Were you just nervous and did not know

A. what would come of it? Or did you think you would be indicted, did your attorney tell you that?

A. I have been in the Penitentiary so long.

MR. ALCOCK:

Are you afraid of any law enforcement or Grand Jury?

A. No, not afraid, the truth always comes out.

JUROR:

Did you feel that you would be indicted when you walked in here?

A. No sir. I was nervous waiting all day to come in.

Q. Your attorney told you not to answer any questions?

MR. ALCOCK:

Why do you suppose he did not want you to answer any questions?

A. I want to speak to my attorney.

Q. Can I ask you a few more snapshots, if you recognize them? I have several of them here. Perhaps you will recognize a few, several of them are Spanish. You are better at pronouncing the names than I am so I will give you a list to read.

A. Want me to read them out loud?

Q. Yes, will you do that?

A. (reads names)

I don't know any of these names.

I recognize this name, Arturo _____.

Q. Who is he?

A. He was 10 years in Angola. I know Arturo. I know he served 6 or 7 years. He was convicted in 1958 or 1959 for marijuana.

Q. Is that the only name you recognize, that one?

A. Yes, Arturo.

Q. Do you know a Cuban by the name of Ching, he may look somewhat Chinese, but is really a Cuban. He worked in a broom factory here and lived in the St. Thomas Project?

A. No.

Q. How about Jose LLera or Yera?

A. I know Yera, he is a Mexican.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of Fabriga? Last name.

A. No.

Q. Have you ever heard of Alpha 66?

A. No.

Q. Have you heard of _____ Breco, worked at a foreign car place on Carondelet St?

A. No.

Q. MR. BURNES:

If the District Attorney's Office, Mr. Garrison, all of the Assistant District Attorneys, and the Grand Jury, were in a position to tell you unequivocally, without any doubt, that you would not be prosecuted for anything you said on the NBC program - you understand what I am saying ...

A. Yes ...

Q. I am saying, IF we said that to you, and could guarantee that, would you be in a position then to answer some questions about what you stated on the NBC Program?

A. I would have to consult my lawyer first.

Q. MR. FOREMAN:

I would like to point out one thing, Mr. Torres, is that this Grand Jury is composed of citizens interested in the administration of Justice and fairness, and they are not trying to persecute or indict anybody, all we want is the truth. Therefore, I am wondering why a group of intelligent individuals - that you would not choose to talk about NBC, yet you would ~~xxx~~ talk to a perfect stranger like Mr. Walter Sheridan, and not talk to us, who are trying to seek a solution to a big problem. Would you care to comment on that?

A. I would like to see my attorney.

JUROR:

Q. Let me make one comment. A little while ago you said you like it in this Country and the democratic way of life, the Grand Jury is one of the democratic ways of life and unless we can function as we ought to by getting cooperation from the citizens, it would be difficult to maintain this democratic way of life. You have to contribute to the democratic way of life by contributing and cooperating, or you can make it difficult by not doing so, but if you sincerely and honestly feel that this is a good way of life, I don't see how or why you don't be a little cooperative. We are not trying to do you a thing, we are trying to get to the truth. And we are just as concerned if there is any wrongdoing in the District Attorney's Office as we would be with anybody else. We are an impartial group of citizens.

MR. BURNES:

Miguel, after you come back in I am going to ask you the same question that I asked you a while ago, and the question I am going to ask you is: that if the District Attorney's Office, that means the whole

office, Jim Garrison and everyone in the office, and if the Grand Jury could tell you that anything you said on the NBC Station - and you would not be prosecuted for it - and we would guarantee you that - would you then be in a position to answer questions about it? Now, with the Grand Jury's permission you are permitted to go and ask advice from your attorney and return. Then I will ask you that question.

(Exit Mr. Torres)

(Return)

MR. BURNES:

Q. Now, Mr. Torres, you have gone out and talked to your attorney, haven't you?

A. Yes.

Q. Now I want you to understand that at this stage I have not granted you immunity or offered you immunity, nor has the Grand Jury. My question is IF I were to say, or the whole District Attorney's Office were to say to you, and the Grand Jury, that you would not be prosecuted for anything you said to NBC, and IF that were given to you in the form of a guarantee, if that were done and if it could be done, and it were done,

and you were satisfied that it could be done, would you then be in a position to answer questions you made to NBC about the District Attorney's Office, your connections and the statements you made.

A. You would have to consult with my attorney - I wouldn't be able to answer any questions without talking to him.

Q. If you were assured that you would be given immunity for having made a statement? Now understand, you would not be charged for having made the statement on television, or to NBC, but if you were to give false testimony when asked about it, of course that would be subject to the regular laws of perjury. In other words, anything you say in here has to be the truth, you understand about that?

A. Yes.

Q. I think, gentlemen, this is a new juncture and I think it should be discussed with Mr. Garrison before we consider asking on this basis. How is your feeling about that? I think he has expressed willingness, but I wouldn't do it without consulting Mr. Garrison.

Q. Now I don't have any further questions at this time. Now, Miguel, do you understand that at this time I have not granted you immunity and that the Grand Jury hasn't? And does your attorney understand that, that at this very moment we have not granted you immunity. However, if you appear here and speak before the Grand Jury we can give you immunity for the statements you made, but when you tell the Grand Jury under oath something and you lie, then you will be prosecuted for perjury, you understand that? And your attorney understands that? Is that correct?

A. Yes.

MR. BURNES:

The last thing I want to be sure that you know and understand is that when you first came in here this morning you were given an oath that had two parts: the first part was to tell the truth and the second part was to keep the proceedings of this Grand Jury secret, and that means exactly that: you can't tell anyone unless you are either indicted or charged, or a suspect of a crime, anything that happened in this room. Do you understand?

A. Yes.

Q. That is all. Thank you very much.

(Second appearance of MIGUEL TORRES before the Grand Jury)

August 31, 1967 (Thursday)

MIGUEL TORRES, after being duly sworn by the Foreman of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, was questioned and answered as follows:

MR. ALCOCK:

- Q. Please state your name for the record?
- A. Miguel Torres
- Q. Are you represented by an attorney?
- A. Yes, Mr. Burton Klein.
- Q. Is he outside?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you have time to confer with him before coming in here?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Now Mr. Burnes had put the possibility to you last week that we might give you full immunity for any statement you made on National Television and let me advise you at this time, and I have advised your counsel, that we cannot give you immunity. The only immunity in the State of Louisiana is related to public bribery. Now, let me also warn you at this time that anything you say that tends to incriminate you or incriminate

minates you in the commission of any crime you have a right to refuse to answer. Do you understand that?

A. Yes.

Q. Additionally, if you make statements and they are false and you make them knowingly, you can be charged with perjury. You understand that?

A. Yes.

Q. And as Mr. Burnes explained to you last week, its not necessarily something that you know to be false, but something you make an unqualified statement about that you do not know is true or false, is perjury. You understand that?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, did you appear on National television in June of this year?

A. I refuse to answer on the grounds that the answer might tend to incriminate me.

Q. Let me ask one more question. Were the statements that you made on national television over an NBC program in June of 1967 about certain members of the District Attorney's Office true or false?

A. I refuse to answer the question on the grounds that it might incriminate me.

Q. I would like to get these questions down to
take into Court.

(Members of the Grand Jury, Assistant District Attorneys
and Mr. Torres went into Judge Bagert's Court, where the
matter was taken under advisement).

C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that the preceding transcript is a true
and correct copy of the testimony given, under oath,
before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, on the 23rd & 31st
of August, 1967, and reduced to typewriting by me.

Maureen B. Thiel

